

Highlights of Environmental Progress in Virginia 2002 - 2007

- Air quality in Richmond and Hampton Roads has improved and now meets the federal air quality standard that protects people's health from ozone pollution. The Roanoke and Winchester areas also voluntarily have adopted early action plans to improve air quality.

- Since 2002, Virginia has defined what a restored Chesapeake Bay and its tidal rivers would look like through the establishment of regulatory water quality standards, has passed two nutrient reduction regulations for point sources, and has seen a robust start to an innovative permitting and nutrient credit exchange program.

- Virginia developed a drought management plan and is working on the state's first comprehensive statewide water supply plan.

- Today there are 18 exceptional waters across Virginia, including free flowing mountain streams, a tidal stream in southeastern Virginia and one of Virginia's two natural lakes, Lake Drummond. Virginia is also considering additional waters for this protective designation.



- More than 40 brownfield sites have been acquired in Virginia, and an estimated \$700 million has been reinvested in capital projects. Hundreds of new jobs have been created, and hundreds of jobs have been saved.

- Virginia developed trash barge regulations, the most stringent and environmentally protective in the nation.

- About 344 TMDLs, or total maximum daily load studies, have been completed since 1999. These studies show the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards.

- The Virginia Environmental Excellence Program has been fully implemented with more than 400 facilities participating statewide.

- DEQ issued a permit to a power plant in Warren County that protects air quality in the Shenandoah National Park and sets the standard for stringent air emission limits for this type of facility.

- DEQ met with hundreds of citizens in 2004 and 2005, and is working with the conservation community, citizens, local governments, community groups and associations across Virginia to identify ways to improve the way DEQ works with the public.



- Virginia developed and implemented the Virginia Hospitals for a Healthy Environment, with more than 85 facilities participating.

- DEQ closed the Battle Creek landfill in Page County in 2004 as a last resort to ensure that the requirements of Virginia's solid waste laws, regulations and the landfill permits will be followed. That landfill re-opened in 2005 and now operates in a way that protects the environment.

- DEQ, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Army Corps of Engineers reached a settlement with Newdunn Associates and its contractors in 2005 that requires the companies to restore 26 acres of wetlands in Newport News. In 2001, Newdunn failed to obtain permits before it began digging ditches and filling wetlands. Among other requirements, Newdunn paid a fine of \$250,000 – \$150,000 of which goes to environmental improvement projects.

